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Report from Hongkong-Plague and smallpox.

HONGKONG, CHINA, May 13, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the report of inspection work at this station for the week ended May 11, 1901:

Eleven steamers were inspected during the week, 1,103 individuals were bathed, and 1,675 pieces of baggage were disinfected by steam. Since May 1, Asiatic steerage passengers have been prohibited entry into the Philippine Islands in accordance with regulations issued by P. A. Surg. J. C. Perry. To prevent this class traveling as cabin passengers, all Asiatics, prior to engaging passage, are required to obtain a certificate that they are free from quarantinable disease. They are then inspected a second time just prior to the departure of the steamer.

One hundred and twenty-eight cases of plague and 117 deaths were reported during the week. Another European employee of the Hongkong Dispensary was removed to the hospital suffering with plague. This is the third case from this store (2 having been reported last week), and the disease was probably contracted from vermin, as dead rats were found around the premises. One case of smallpox and 2 cases of enteric fever were also reported during the week.

Unofficial reports state that the plague epidemic at Canton is severe. JOHN W. KERR,

Respectfully,

Assistant Surgeon, U.S. M. H. S.

The Surgeon-General, U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

COLOMBIA.

Report from Bocas del Toro-Fruit port.

BOCAS DEL TORO, COLOMBIA, June 5, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the following report of the transactions at this port for the week ended Tuesday, June 4, 1901, inclusive:

The following vessels have cleared from this port during the week, and I inclose herewith the triplicate certificates for same: May 29, Norwegian steamship John Wilson, Hansen, master; crew, 17; no passengers; for Mobile, Ala. May 30, Norwegian steamship Bodo, Johannesen, master; crew, 16; no passengers; for Mobile, Ala. June 1, Norwegian steamship Harald, Halverson, master; crew, 17; no passengers; for Mobile, Ala.

I have endeavored to get some statistics of the deaths in Bocas del Toro since January 1, and through the clergymen have obtained the following information as to the number of funerals conducted by each, viz, Rev. Nicholas Rhoden, Catholic, 5; Rev. John Chinn, Methodist, 6; Rev. C. W. Notmann, Baptist, 8; Rev. — Webb, Episcopal, 6.

The death rate among the Chinese population I have been unable to obtain, although it has been promised to me. The death rate, however, among the latter does not exceed that of the others.

The above number of deaths includes those which have occurred at the settlement (Old Bank), on Provision Island, Careening Cay, and Solarte Cay (in local parlance, Nancy's Cay). One death was due to tuberculosis and 1 to accidental drowning.